

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated April 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 23, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 10-14, and 17-49 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 2-9 and 15-16 have been cancelled by Applicants. Applicants have amended claim 44. Claims 44-49 are rejected, and claims 1, 10-14, and 17-43 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

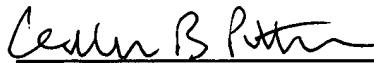
Claims 44-49 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by *Ryll* (U.S. Patent Number 6,302,205). The Examiner states that *Ryll* discloses a drillable cement shoe for use in a wellbore. The Examiner states that a tubular housing (designated by numbers 28, 14, 20) is disposed on the end of the tubular string (designated by number 14). The Examiner states that a valve (designated by number 22) and cement (designated by number 24) comprise the drillable cement shoe portion in communication with the tubular string. Further, the Examiner states that the housing 20 has an enlarged inner diameter at some points along its length because of the undulations between the ends of the housing section 20.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to claims 44-49. Referring to Figures 1-4 of *Ryll*, the undulation at the lowermost end of the housing 20 does not have a length at least as large as the inner diameter of the housing 20 at the undulation. Therefore, if the undulation at the lowermost end of the housing 20 of *Ryll* is used as the enlarged inner diameter portion recited in claims 44-49, the enlarged inner diameter portion does not have a length at least as large as the enlarged inner diameter. Accordingly, *Ryll* does not teach, show, or suggest a cement shoe assembly for use in a wellbore comprising a tubular section for disposal at an end of a tubular string, the lowermost end of the tubular section having an enlarged inner diameter portion, the enlarged inner diameter portion having a length at least as large as the enlarged inner diameter; and a drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the tubular section, the

cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, as recited in claims 44-49. Applicants thus respectfully request removal of the rejection to and allowance of claims 44-49.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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